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SOUTH MOLTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
and Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1955.

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.),

Medical Officer of Health.



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113, East Street,

South Molton,

May, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
South Molton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual  
Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration  
of the Rural District for the year 1955.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health.



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE  
South Molton Rural District Council

For the year ending December 31st, 1955.

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LIST OF STAFF

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The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

*Part-time Officers :—*

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health.

Mrs. ELWORTHY, Clerk.

*Whole-time Officers :—*

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

A. J. C. NEX, M.S.I.A.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Miss M. LOCK, Clerk.



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ..	117,432
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	9,030
Inhabited Houses ... ..	2,835
Rateable Value ... ..	£31,127
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£128

### VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	63	52	115
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			115

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population 12.7

	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			2

STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births 17.0

	Males	Females	Total
DEATHS ... ..	48	47	95

DEATH RATE per 1,000 population 10.5

The Table below shows the comparative figures for the South Molton Rural District and England and Wales.

The Local Birth and Death Rates are shown corrected by the Area Comparability Factors.

Birth Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
South Molton R.D. ...	14.7	0.22	9.03	17.3	0
England and Wales ...	15.0		11.7	24.9	—



### DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ... ..	2	—	2
Illegitimate .. ...	—	—	—
			<hr/>
DEATH RATE per 1,000 Live Births	17.3		2

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .. ...	2	—	2
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
			<hr/>
			2

### LOCAL DEATHS OVER 65 YEARS

65—69 ... 16	85—89 ... 4
70—74 ... 16	90—94 ... 5
75—79 ... 17	95 plus ... 0
80—84 ... 17	Total ... 75

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ... ..	0

### CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ... ..	2	0
Infective Disease ... ..	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach ... ..	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast ... ..	0	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus .. ...	0	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	6
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..	8	8
Coronary Disease ... ..	3	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..	1	2
Other Heart Diseases ... ..	9	11
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	2	2
Influenza ... ..	1	0
Pneumonia ... ..	2	0
Bronchitis ... ..	6	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	1	2
Nephritis ... ..	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	1	0
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	6	7
Suicide ... ..	2	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	48	47

# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1955

(in age groups excluding Tuberculosis)

Age years	Measles		Whooping Cough		Pneumonia		Scarlet	Fever
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1					1			
1— 2	1	1	2	1	1			
2— 3	3	4	3	3				
3— 4	1	2		1				
4— 5	2	1	1	4				
5—10	14	12	12	11				1
10—15			1	5				
15—20				1				
44				1				
57					1			
67					1			
	—	—	—	—	—			—
	21	20	19	27	4			1
	—	—	—	—	—			—

Below is appended a Table showing the distribution of Infectious Diseases notified in 1955 (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Scarlet	Fever
Bishopsnympton ...		1			
Burrington ...			1	1	
Chittlehampton ...	27		1		
Knowstone ...			2		
North Molton ...	11	43			
Twitchen ...	2	1			
Warkleigh ...	1				
Worlington ...		1			
	—	—	—	—	—
	41	46	4	1	
	—	—	—	—	—

## NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR 1955

Age years	PULMONARY		NON PULMONARY	
	M	F	M	F
7	—	1	—	—
71	—	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—
	0	1	0	1
	—	—	—	—

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA HOSPITALS**

### **1. Tuberculosis**

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

### **2. Maternity Cases**

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

### **3. Isolation of Infectious Diseases**

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital (formerly North Devon Isolation Hospital), which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford. The latter is of recent construction and well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases.

There are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious Cases.

### **4. Small Pox**

The Small Pox Hospital, to which cases of Small Pox will be sent, is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

### **5. General**

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

## 6. Clinics and Treatment Centres

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple. Below is a table giving days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	} Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Thursday	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	
Friday	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	} A.P. Refills

V.D. CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions.

FEMALES—Monday 4 p.m.	Thursday 4.30 p.m.
MALES—Monday 5.15 p.m.	Thursday 5.45 p.m.

## 7. Professional Nursing in the Homes

There are six District Nurses in the area, all of whom act as Midwives.

## 8. Laboratory Facilities

The main Laboratory is situated at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at the former Barnstaple and North Devon Dispensary Building in Barnstaple with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area.

There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

## 9. Immunization Against Diphtheria

During the year 71 children received Primary Injections and 169 received Reinforcing Injections.

## 10. Vaccination

The following table shows the number of Vaccinations carried out in their age groups during the year:—

Under 1 year—21.	1-4 years—34.	5-14 years—6.
	15 years and over—5.	



## **11. Ambulance Services**

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

## **12. Acute Poliomyelitis**

No cases occurred during the year.

## **13. Food Poisoning**

No cases occurred during the year.

## **14. Home Help Service**

There are Home Helps operating in the South Molton Borough and Rural Districts and the scheme is run by the Devon County Council. During the year help was rendered in 26 cases as follows:—

Maternity 11, Old Age 7, Old Age (long term) 4,  
Others (sickness, etc.) 4.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor or District Nurse is entitled to a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the housewife.

I desire to thank Mr. Willey and the Sanitary Inspectors for the help they have given me.

F. J. H. MARTIN.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR TO THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL AREA

For the year ended 31st December, 1955

8 East Street,  
South Molton.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1955.

During the year 2,303 visits and inspections were made including:—

## PUBLIC HEALTH—

Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Disinfections and Disinfestations (Rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains inspected and tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
General	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Complaints, Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
„ Non „	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
„ Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS ... 47

FOOD AND DRUGS—Section 13 Premises ... 36

„ 14 „ ... 6

„ 57 „ ... 3

Meat and Food Inspection ... 506

FACTORIES—With Power ... 11

Without Power ... 8

HOUSING—Council Houses ... 90

General Inspections ... 52

Survey ... 294

Council Houses in Course of Erection and  
Housing Sites ... 338

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS ... 8

INTERVIEWS—Owners, Builders, etc. ... 45

MISCELLANEOUS AND MEETINGS ... 157

2,303



## WATER

PARISH	No. of Houses supplied from Public Mains	Estimated Population so served	No. of Houses supplied by Standpipes on Public Mains	Estimated Population so served
Bishopsnympton	91	310	3	11
Charles (Brayford)	32	112	—	—
Chulmleigh ...	255	893	—	—
Kingsnympton ...	63	217	1	3
North Molton ...	198	674	27	95
Rackenford ...	44	152	—	—
Witheridge ...	174	606	19	68
Chittlehampton ...	126	413	—	—
Chittlehamholt ...	39	137	—	—
Georgenympton	23	79	—	—
Meshaw ...	11	38	—	—
Satterleigh ...	9	32	—	—
Romansleigh ...	12	41	—	—
East Worlington	25	86	—	—
Mariansleigh ...	19	66	—	—
Queensnympton	3	10	—	—
Burrington ...	32	120	—	—

26 Samples of Private Supplies were taken with the results as shown.

	Chemical & Bacteriological	Bacteriological
Satisfactory	1	12
Unsatisfactory	—	13

In the 13 cases where the water supply was unsatisfactory informal action was taken to have the matters remedied or an alternative source found.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Chittlehampton Sewage Disposal Works was constructed during the year and brought into use during November.

The Engineer's proposals for a Sewage Disposal Works at Chulmleigh were submitted to the Ministry towards the end of the year.

## FOOD AND DRUGS

Regular visits were paid to the premises in which food is handled and sold and the standard of cleanliness was generally satisfactory.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are five licensed Slaughterhouses in the district at which regular killing and inspection takes place.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION

It will be seen from the following Table that 100% meat inspection was carried out, involving 506 visits. It was necessary to condemn 1 ton 3 cwts. 81 lbs. of carcase meat and 17 cwts. 76 lbs. of offal.

### CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	441	11	11	1327	678	Nil
Number inspected	441	11	11	1327	678	Nil
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	2	19	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	149	5	Nil	65	4	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	33.78 %	45.45 %	18.18 %	6.33 %	0.74 %	N.A.
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	3	Nil	Nil	68	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.26 %	27.27 %	Nil %	Nil %	10.32 %	N.A.
<b>Cysticercosis</b>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Periodic inspections were made to other food premises and in no case was it necessary to take statutory action. The following was found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned.

#### FOOD SURRENDERED

	lbs.	ozs.
Bacon ... ..	6	10
Corned Beef ... ..	1	12
Luncheon Meat ... ..	12	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>

#### ICE CREAM

Regular inspection of retail premises were made. The total number of premises registered at the end of the year was 14, all selling pre-packed ice-cream only.

#### DAIRIES

The dairies within the district were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

#### FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Acts during the year. Form 572 has been completed.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.  
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor



